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- (c) transforming or transfecting the host cell with the vector of step (a),
- (d) providing cell culture media,
- (e) culturing the transformed or transfected host cell in the cell culture media under conditions sufficient for expression of the protein of interest and the caspase-9 dominant negative protein and optionally
- (f) recovering or purifying the protein of interest from the host cell and/or cell culture media.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the gene encoding the caspase-9 dominant negative protein is stably integrated into the genome of the host cell.

13. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of admixing an additional apoptosis inhibitor molecule into the cell culture media in steps (d) or (e).

14. The method of claim 11 wherein said cell culture media comprises butyrate.

15. The method of claim 11 wherein after step (e), the host cell(s) and/or cell culture media is frozen and subsequently thawed.

16. A method of making recombinant proteins using one or more apoptosis inhibitors, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a vector comprising a gene encoding a protein of interest,
- (b) providing a Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) host cell,
- (c) transforming or transfecting the host cell with the vector of step (a),
- (d) providing cell culture media,
- (e) providing an amount of caspase inhibitor z-VAD-fmk,
- (f) admixing the caspase inhibitor into the cell culture media,
- (g) culturing the host cell in the cell culture media under conditions sufficient for expression of the protein of interest, and optionally
- (h) recovering or purifying the protein of interest from the host cell and/or the cell culture media.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein after step (g), the host cell(s) and/or cell culture media is frozen and subsequently thawed.

18. A method of increasing yield of a protein of interest in a cell culture, comprising the steps of:

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- (a) providing a vector comprising a gene encoding caspase-9 dominant negative protein,
- (b) providing a vector comprising a gene encoding a protein of interest,
- (c) providing a Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) host cell,
- (d) transforming or transfecting the host cell with the vector of steps (a) and (b),
- (e) providing cell culture media,
- (f) culturing the transformed or transfected host cell in the cell culture media under conditions sufficient for expression of the protein of interest and an amount of the caspase-9 dominant negative protein which is effective in increasing yield of the protein of interest, and optionally
- (g) recovering or purifying the protein of interest from the host cell and/or the cell culture media.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein said cell culture media is serum-free media.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein after step (f), the host cell(s) and/or cell culture media is frozen and subsequently thawed.

21. A method of prolonging host cell viability in a cell culture, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a vector comprising a gene encoding caspase-9 dominant negative protein,
- (b) providing a vector comprising a gene encoding a protein of interest,
- (c) providing a Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) host cell,
- (d) transforming or transfecting the host cell with the vector of steps (a) and (b),
- (e) providing cell culture media,
- (f) culturing the transformed or transfected host cell in the cell culture media under conditions sufficient for expression of the protein of interest and an amount of caspase-9 dominant negative protein which is effective for prolonging viability of the host cells in the cell culture, and optionally
- (g) recovering or purifying the protein of interest from the host cell and/or the cell culture media.

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